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Recommended Citation

Armstrong State University, "Second-Half Run Leads Pirates To 84-79 PBC Win At North Georgia" (2013). *Armstrong Men's Basketball News Archives*. 131.
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Second-Half Run Leads Pirates To 84-79 PBC Win At North Georgia

ARMSTRONG	NORTH GEORGIA			
84	Final	1	2	T
	ARMSTRONG (4-4, 1-0 PBC)	34	50	84
	NORTH GEORGIA (3-4, 0-1 PBC)	36	43	79





Posted: Dec 14, 2013

DAHLONEGA, Ga. - The Armstrong Atlantic State University men's basketball team began the second half on a 14-3 run to claim an 84-79 Peach Belt Conference victory over host North Georgia on Saturday afternoon at Memorial Hall in Dahlonega, Ga.

The Pirates (4-4, 1-0 PBC) halted a three-game slide in the win over the Nighthawks (3-4, 0-1 PBC) in the league opener for both teams. North Georgia has alternated wins and losses in each game since beginning the season.

Armstrong opened up the contest on a 22-6 run over the first eight and a half minutes, with ninepoints coming from senior **Hichem Benayad-Cherif**, but North Georgia slowly chipped away throughout the rest of the half, eventually taking a two-point lead into halftime on Travis Core's buzzer-beating layup that made the score 36-34 at the break.

Senior **Kenny Bellinger II** opened the second half with a three-pointer, sparking a 14-3 run for the Pirates over the first five minutes that put

GAME LEADERS

ARMSTRONG

Pts: Hichem Benayad-Cherif - 19

Reb: 2 Players (**#11**, **#23**) - 10

Ast: Kyle Callanan - 7

NORTH GEORGIA

Pts: Ishmael Hollis - 22

Reb: Ishmael Hollis - 8

Ast: Travis Core - 7

TEAM STATS

ARMSTRONG

(25-58)

43.1%

NORTH GEORGIA

(29-66)

43.9%

Field Goals

Field Goal %

Armstrong ahead by a 48-39 score. A layup by Core would bring the Nighthawks back to within one point, 62-61, with 7:11 remaining, but Bellinger would can another three-pointer to make it a two possession game and North Georgia would not get closer than three points the rest of the way.

Benayad-Cherif notched his first double-double as a Pirate with a team-high 19 points to go with 10 rebounds. Senior **Eric Eversley** also added a double-double, his third straight, with 15 points and 10 rebounds. Bellinger chipped in 16 points on 4-of-7 shooting from the floor, including 3-of-5 from three-point range.

North Georgia was paced by 22 points from Ishmael Hollis, pacing four Nighthawks in double figures on the day. Core notched 18 points while Lamar Richardson added 17 points. Michael Varrichione chipped in 11 points off the bench.

The Pirates finish their PBC-opening road swing on Monday, taking on Young Harris at 1:00 p.m. in Young Harris, Ga.



47	Rebounds	33
14	Assists	19
17	Turnovers	12
15	Pts off Turnovers	12
15	2nd Chance Pts	11
30	Pts in the Paint	40
9	Fastbreak Pts	7
24	Bench Pts	15

FULL STATS

ARMSTRONG STATE UNIVERSITY

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